

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06273 281827Z

63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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USCINCEUR

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CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6273

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, DECEMBER 7, 1973: FOLLOW-UP ACTION

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PO/73/174 OF DECEMBER 28, 1973 FROM ACTING
SYG. BEGIN TEXT.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING
OF DEFENCE MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1973

THE DECISIONS WHICH I HAVE RECORDED AS BEING TAKEN BY DEFENCE
MINISTERS ARE SET OUT IN DPC/D(73)35. I AM CIRCULATING A
SEPARATE MEMORANDUM(1) ON ITEM VI (FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
ARISING FROM THE STATIONING OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN EUROPE).
MY SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP WORK ON THE REMAINING ITEMS ARE SET
OUT BELOW.

-----FOOTNOTE (1) PO/73/175

2. NATO FORCE PLANNING (ITEM V.A)
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 06273 281827Z

THE DECISIONS RECORDED UNDER THIS HEADING DO NOT APPEAR
TO NEED AMPLIFICATION OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MACHINERY.
FOLLOW-UP ACTION WILL FOLLOW THE NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR FORCE
PLANNING AND CONSULTATION IN NATO (FOR DECISION 5(I) SEE

PARAGRAPH 8 BELOW).

3. BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENCE PLANNING (ITEM V.B)

(A) I PROPOSE THAT THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE INVITED TO PREPARE THE DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT CALLED FOR BY MINISTERS AND THAT IT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION NOT LATER THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING OF DEFENCE MINISTERS.

(B) IN DOING SO, THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP WILL OF COURSE, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OF SUGGESTION MADE BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER(2) THAT ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE SHOULD ALSO BE COVERED IN THE STUDY.

(C) AT THE SAME TIME, THE GROUP SHOULD CONSIDER HOW THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT COULD BEST BE RELATED TO OTHER MAJOR FORCE PLANNING ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL BE TAKING PLACE OVER THE SAME PERIOD, E.G. THE FORCE GOALS EXERCISE, THE AD-70 REPORT AND THE SPECIALISATION STUDIES; MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND WILL BE COVERED IN EACH CASE AND THEY MUST SO ORGANIZE THE WORK AS TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

-----FOOTNOTE (2) DPC/VR(73)20, PAGE 13

4. STUDY ON SPECIALISATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION (ITEM V.C)

(A) WE LOOK, OF COURSE, TO THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT FOR A FULL REPLY ON THE PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER THIS HEADING, I.E. PARAGRAPHS 7(B) AND (C) OF THE DECISION SHEET.

(B) AS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION AT 7(D), I TAKE IT THAT WORK IN THE EXISTING SUB-GROUPS WILL CONTINUE UNDER THE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 06273 281827Z

AEGIS OF THE STEERING GROUP. SINCE THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED, HOWEVER, WE MIGHT CONSIDER IN THE DPC OR IN THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS THE BEST MACHINERY FOR EXPLOITING THE POSSIBILITIES OF SPECIALISATION, WHETHER THE STUDY SHOULD BE TAKEN OVER BY THE EXISTING STAFF STRUCTURE, OR WHETHER NEW ORGANS SHOULD BE CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE.

(C) WE ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE STUDY SHOULD BE EXTENDED INTO NEW AREAS OF POSSIBLE SPECIALISATION.

5. TACTICAL AIR FORCES (ITEM V.D)

THE ACTION UNDER THIS HEADING IS PRIMARILY FOR THE MILITARY

AUTHORITIES TO INITIATE. I ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT IN CONSIDERING THEIR RECOMMENDATION FOR THE LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS ALLIED AIR FORCES CENTRAL EUROPE THEY WILL DO SO IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE (ITEM VII)

(A) MINISTERS HAVE INVITED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO NEGOTIATE A COST CEILING AND A COST-SHARING FORMULA FOR THE 1975-1979 PROGRAMME AND REPORT AT THE SPRING MINISTERIAL MEETING. IN VIEW, HOWEVER, OF THE FACT THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME IS A MAJOR VEHICLE FOR POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL BURDEN-SHARING, THERE APPEARS TO BE NEED TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD THESE GOALS BY MID-FEBRUARY.

(B) THE MAIN DECISIONS BY MINISTERS AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE DECISION SHEET DO NOT APPEAR TO NEED ANY SPECIAL COMMENT, EXCEPT THAT IN ESTABLISHING THE COST CEILING FOR THE PROGRAMME THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AND NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING AIRCRAFT PROTECTION IN DPC/D(73)30, PARAGRAPH 21 AND THE UNITED STATES REQUEST FOR A NEW CATEGORY OF INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF STATIONED FORCES.

7. NATO MILITARY STAFFS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NATO 06273 281827Z

ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT ACTURALLY RECORDED IN THE DECISION SHEET, IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENCE DREW ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR ECONOMIES IN MILITARY STAFFS, GOING BEYOND THE 5 PERCENT REDUCTION ON WHICH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAVE ALREADY AGREED. I PROPOSE THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ASKED TO REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THIS FIELD AND ON THE PROSPECTS OF FURTHER MANPOWER SAVINGS.

8. FORMAT OF MINISTERIAL MEETING

MANY VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND SINCE IN FAVOUR OF DEVOTING MORE TIME TO MATTERS OF DEFENCE POLICY AND OVEALL STRATEGY AND LESS TO DETAIL. THIS IS A MATTER WHICH AFFECTS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL AS MINISTERS, AND I WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THIS RESULT MIGHT BEST BE ACHIEVED. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE MIGHT ALSO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE DURATION OF THESE MEETINGS IN ORDER TO PERMIT ADEQUATE TIME FOR MINISTERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES AS WELL AS ROUTINE MATTERS. I ASSUME WE SHOULD ALSO WISH TO RETAIN THE OPTION OF A RESTRICTED SESSION SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES, OR THE WISH OF MINISTERS, SO DICTATE.

9. I PROPOSE TO PLACE THIS NOTE ON THE AGENDA OF THE
DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR EARLY DISCUSSION.

END TEXT. RUMSFELD

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